

NICOLE C. GROOTE

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January 31, 2001

U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management
Branch, 5630 Fishers Ln.
Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: petition 98P-0151/CP1

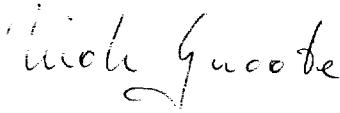
To Whom It May Concern:

I was informed that the USDA announced last year that it would stop purchasing meat from downed cattle--non-ambulatory cows who are too sick or injured to even stand --for use in federal programs.

As you know, it is impossible to move downed cattle humanely; instead, they are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains, causing injuries ranging from bruises and abrasions to broken bones and ligaments. And recent evidence shows that some downed animals may be afflicted with a form of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (mad cow disease), a condition that is linked to a fatal illness in humans.

Please grant petition 98P-0151/CP1 to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals!

Sincerely,



Nicole Groote

98P-0151

C3881

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